

those who have been accustomed to the trees in the North. In one orchard in Haywood county was measured a tree that had a girth of eleven feet and nine inches, and in the same orchard, which had never been cultivated there were a hundred other trees that were full three feet in diameter of trunk, and all in the most luxuriant health. All that is needed here is a population of fruit growers who understand the culture and handling of winter apples. Apples of the northern varieties grown in Watauga county, are hardly recognizable because of their greater size and beauty. With good railroad connections southward (the natural market for the fruit of this section) the growing of apples cannot fail to be profitable. And when is added to this the general fertility of the soil, the pure cold water, fine grasses for dairy purposes, and the superb mountain scenery with the phenominally light snow fall, we have a region that combines all the advantages of the North in its bracing climate, with the added advantages of a short winter, abounding sunshine and little snow. It is a paradise for the stock raiser, the dairy-man and the fruit grower. It must not be assumed that the apple is the only fruit that will thrive in these valleys and elevated plateaus. In some parts of the mountain region the peach grows to great perfection, while in some parts it is not as successful as further east. But cherries, plums, quinces and pears are perfectly at home, and the grape reaches a high degree of excellence, and wine of the finest kind is being made. In Buncombe county, Col. Hoyt reports that he is succeeding in growing the *Vinifera* grapes by grafting them on the native roots, and the wine from his vineyards is gaining an enviable reputation. Small fruits thrive with great perfection, and in the valleys of the northwestern part of this section the cranberry is indigenous.

### NATIVE FRUITS.

The northern Fox grape (*Vitis Labrusca*) extends to a limited extent into North Carolina in the upper districts of the State. The Muscadine, (*Vitis Vulpina*), the southern Fox grape has its home in North Carolina and here have originated all the valuable varieties of this species in cultivation. They have all so far as we are aware been found as wild plants and none have been the result of the gardener's efforts. The best known of the varieties of this grape is the scuppernong, so called from the Scuppernong river near which it was found several hundred years ago. This is believed to be the veritable grape alluded to by Amadas and Barlowe, Lieutenants exploring under Sir Walter Raleigh, and landing on Roanoke Island in 1584; described as follows: "We viewed the land about us, being, where